

REMARKS

By this Reply, claims 1 and 9 have been amended and claim 8 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9-15 are pending in this application. The amendments are fully supported by the application as originally filed, and no new matter has been introduced by this Reply.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,128,204 to Baranowski et al. ("Baranowski"); and claims 8-15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 8, which the Examiner has indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicant has also canceled now superfluous claim 8. Accordingly, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance. In addition, claims 2-7 and 9-15 are also in condition for allowance, at least due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. Each of claims 2-7 and 9-15 also recites unique combinations that are neither taught nor suggested by the cited art, and therefore each is also separately patentable. The rejection of claims 1-7 under § 102(e) is now moot.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, and drawings in this Reply, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to an

exemplary embodiment described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

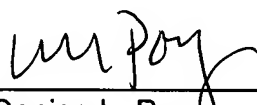
If the Examiner believes a telephone conversation might advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned agent at 202-408-4129.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: August 2, 2007

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